

Nixon Warns Congress on Bomb Cutoff

Washington

President Nixon, reaffirming that bombing in Cambodia will be stopped August 15, warned yesterday that the cut-off imposed by Congress could have "dangerous potential consequences" in Asia.

In a letter to congressional leaders, Mr. Nixon said: "This abandonment of a friend will have a profound impact in other countries, such as Thailand, which have relied on the constancy and determination of the U.S., and I want the Congress to be fully aware of the consequences of its action."

In congressional quarters, Mr. Nixon's letter — addressed to Speaker of the House Carl Albert and Senate Majority leader Mike Mansfield — was widely interpreted as an attempt to shift onto Congress the blame and the responsibility if Cambodia should fall to the Communists after the bombing halt.

WARNING

Mr. Nixon also used the letter to warn the North Vietnamese not to "draw the erroneous conclusion from this congressional action that they are free to launch a military offensive in other areas in Indochina."

"North Vietnam would be making a very dangerous error if it mistook the cessation of bombing in Cambodia for an invitation to fresh aggression or further violations of the Paris agreements," he said. "The American people would respond to such aggression with appropriate action."

The Pentagon announced meanwhile that Defense Secretary James Schlesinger is issuing orders to military commanders to end "all combat activities" in Cambodia and Laos at midnight (EDT) August 14.

RECON

Under the Defense Department orders, unarmed reconnaissance flights and

"noncombat flights" to deliver military supplies will be permitted. The U.S. will also continue its flow of military aid to Cambodia and Laos.

The termination of the

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bombing in Cambodia was required by a legislative amendment, approved by Congress on June 30 and subsequently signed into law by Mr. Nixon as part of a continuing resolution providing stopgap financing for various government agencies, including the Defense Department.

The amendment, resulting from a compromise between the White House and Congress, provides that after

More Cambodian news on Pages 10 and 11.

August 15 no funds previously appropriated or provided under the continuing resolution can be used "to finance, directly or indirectly, combat activities" by American forces in or over Cambodia, Laos, North Vietnam or South Vietnam.

LETTER

In his letter, the President said he would "obey" the law and clearly indicated that he would not ask for congressional authority to continue the bombing in Cambodia.

However, Mr. Nixon devoted most of his letter to criticizing Congress for its action and to warning of the "dangerous potential consequences" and "the hazards that lie in the path chosen by Congress."

CEASE-FIRE

In his warning to North Vietnam, Mr. Nixon did not specify what "appropriate action" might be taken by the U.S., nor did he go into the constitutional question of his authority to order re-

newed military action against North Vietnam.

Among the "dangerous potential consequences" of the congressional action, the President cited the difficulty of obtaining a cease-fire in Cambodia now that American bombing support is coming to an end.

"We have had every confidence of being able to achieve" a cease-fire agreement in Cambodia, he said. "With the passage of the congressional act," he continued, "the incentive to negotiate a settlement in Cambodia has been undermined, and August 15 will accelerate this process."

New York Times

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